REMARKS

This paper is filed responsive to the Final Office Action mailed June 18, 2009. Claims 1-6 are withdrawn. Claims 7-18 are pending in the application. Claim 7 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. No new matter is added.

Claims 7-10, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,658,290 (Lechot). Applicants traverse this rejection.

As amended, Applicants submit that Lechot does not anticipate claim 7 and those claims that depend from claim 7—claims 8-10, 15 and 18. Independent claim 7 is amended to add the limitation that the ***hook, pin and spring are configured*** such that, when the portion of the bar is disposed within the mouth and is moved relative to the plate from a first position, where the bar portion contacts the undersurface of the free end, to a second position toward the root, the hook and pin are ***automatically*** displaced relative to one another thereby enabling the portion of the bar to be moved to a third position between the root and the pin. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0045] of U.S. Application Publication No. 2007-0142840:

> Continued rotation of the shell relative to the manipulator causes the bar to contact the ramp portion 100 of the hook. As the shell is rotated further, action of the surface 106 of the bar which faces away from the plate against the ramp portion of the hook causes the plate 56 (on which the hooks are fixed) to be displaced relative to the closure cap 66, with compression of the spring 70 between the closure cap and the bearing cap 72. This displacement continues until the locked portions 102 of the hook surfaces engages the surface 106 of the bar which faces away from the plate. This is shown in FIG. 5.

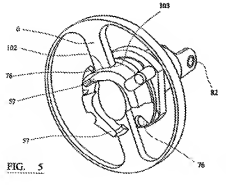


FIG. 5

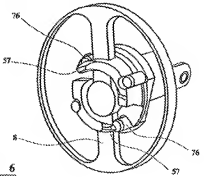
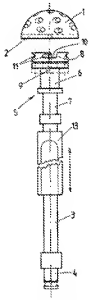


FIG. 6

The components of the claimed invention—the hook, pin and spring—are thus configured such that when the portion of the bar is moved from the first position to a second position, the hook and pin are ***automatically*** displaced relative to one another thereby enabling the portion of the bar to be moved to a third position between the root and the pin.

Lechot does not disclose such an arrangement. As discussed in the amendment filed on April 22, 2009, Lechot is an example of the prior art device described in the final paragraph of page 1 of the specification (paragraph 4 of U.S. Application Publication No. 2007-0142840).



Referring to the Figure 2 of Lechot, reproduced above, to assemble cap 1 to shank 3, requires the following steps:

1) a user must grasp one end of the shank 3 with one hand;
2) a second hand must move slide 6 proximally toward element 4 of shank 3 against the force supplied by spring 9 such that studs 11 do not prevent the cup's rods 2 from entering the mouth of the bayonet catches 10;
3) then, the user must rotate the shank relative to the cap 1 such that the cup's rods 2 are captured within the bayonet catches 10; and
4) then, the user can release slide 6 such that the studs 11 will move to their initial position under the force of spring 9.

Thus, Lechot does not disclose the claimed structure. That is, no structure is described within Lechot that ***automatically*** displaces the hook and pin relative to one another to enable the portion of the bar to be moved to a position between the root and the pin. Because Lechot fails to describe the claimed structure of claim 7, Lechot does not anticipate the claimed invention, and Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 11-14 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lechot in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,023,572 (Weigand). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner states that Weigand supplies that which Lechot lacks when it comes to the elements of claims 11-14, 16 and 17. In particular, the Examiner states that Weigand discloses the particular hook and plate elements of the claims. The claimed hook and plate elements of claim 7 are elements of the manipulator rather than elements of the component, as is the case in Weigand. Thus, referring to Figure 11 of Weigand, the reamer element is depicted. Figure 17 is a modification to the tool slots 211 of Figure 11. See Weigand, col 9:58-60. Applicants submit that it is unclear that simply combining Weigand with Lechot would produce a workable device or whether one skilled in the art would combine Lechot with Weigand. In any event, combining Lechot with Weigand still does not provide the elements of claim 7, wherein the hook, pin and spring are configured such that when the portion of the bar is moved from the first position to a second position, the hook and pin are ***automatically*** displaced relative to one another thereby enabling the portion of the bar to be moved to a third position between the root and the pin. Applicants submit that amended claim 7 and those claims that depend therefrom are patentable over the cited combination and request the withdrawal of the rejection.

Please charge any fee associated with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 10-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 18, 2009